

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 22, 2007 in which claims 1-20 were allowed and claims 21-25 were rejected. With this Amendment, claim 21 is amended. Such amendments and new claims are fully supported by the specification and drawings. No new matter is added. Claims 26-37 are withdrawn, such that claims 1-25 are pending in this application.

Allowed Claims

The allowance of claims 1-20 is gratefully acknowledged.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rabenau (U.S. Patent No. 5,318,583). The rejection is respectfully traversed and the accuracy of the rejection is not conceded. However, in an effort to advance this application to allowance, claim 21 has been amended.

Claim 21 recites a lancing device comprising (a) a lancet, said lancet having a sharpened tip, (b) a planar torsion spring coupled to said lancet, said torsion spring comprising a spring arm which is transformable between an energized state and a de-energized state, and (c) a mechanism coupled to said torsion spring, (d) wherein transformation of the spring arm of said torsion spring from its de-energized state to its energized state is effected through the manual activation of said mechanism.

The application provides support for a planar torsion spring. For example, the embodiment of FIGS. 13(a)-(c) illustrates such a spring. In addition, torsion spring 67 is described in the specification as including “a substantially flat front surface 135 and a substantially flat back surface 137” at page 17. Therefore, the amendment is fully supported by the drawings and specification.

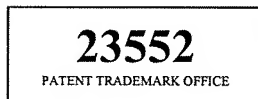
Reply to Office Action of May 22, 2007

Rabenau fails to teach or suggest a lancet device comprising a planar torsion spring coupled to a lancet. Rather, Rabenau describes a wound torsion spring 22, such as shown in FIG. 5, which shows the spring as a cylindrical or helical structure, i.e., it is not planar. Claims 22-25 depend from claim 21. Therefore, consideration and allowance of claims 21-25 is requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. There may be additional reasons that the pending subject matter is patentably distinct from the cited references in addition to those discussed herein. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number, if the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: _____

8/20/07

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy R. Conrad", written over a horizontal line.

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TRC/BAT:ae